(d) whether the allegations against the present Chairman, of misfeasance, relating to the period when he was director of Alcok Ashdown Company Limited, have come to the notice of Government; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that there was a CBI enquiry pending against him and his passport had been impounded on the recommendations of the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) As on 19-9-86, Shri Kashinath Tapuriah, Chairman, M/s. Incab Industries Ltd. held 25.000 equity shares of the above company.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The number of shares proposed to be purchased was 253000.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On the basis of request received from C.B.I. passport No. J-994980 dated 18.4.75 issued to Shri Kashinath Tapuriah S/o Late Rai Bahadur Mangtulal Tapuriah was ordered to be impounded by the Regional Passport Officer Calcutta.

Appointment of Chief Justice

3326. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various difficulties and problems which the Government face in filling up the vacancies of High Court Judges due to which considerable delay has been caused; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint as judges and Chief Justice persons with good knowledge of regional language of the State in which they are appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Appointment of judges is made in consultation with the authorities specified in Article 217(1) of the Constitution. The process of consultation in some cases takes some time.

(b) Appointment of persons as Judges is made after assessing their suitability from all angles. Appointments/transfers of Chief Justices of High Courts are made in pursuance of the policy of having Chief Justices from outside, keeping in view all relevant aspects.

Optical Fibre Cables project in Orissa

3327. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:
SHRI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal from the Government of Orissa for the location of an Optical Fibre Cables and Systems Projects in the State is pending Govt.'s approval;

(b) if so, what would be the cost of the project; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

Corruption charges against BHEL Director

3328. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a list of corruption charges against the Director (Technical) of BHEL, Bhopal Plant, was submitted to the Government; and

(b) whether the charges were enquired into by a Central agency; if so, what are the charges the results of the investigations and action taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) There is no post of Director (Technical) at BHEL, Bhopal Plant.

(b) Does not arise.

Retirement age of public sector executives

3329. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the retirement age of senior officers in public sector undertakings under his Ministry including Directors and Chairman;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of senior public sector executives are still continuing in service even after crossing the supreannuation age, if so, the names of such officers, their age, designation, name of public undertaking, location salary and perks enjoyed by these executives; and

(c) whether in January, 1983, Government ordered for the termination of services of all such executives?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The retirement age in respect of Board-level appointees in public sector undertakings is 58 years. The retirement age of officers of below Board-level is also 58 years, but in a few public sector undertakings, which are taken-over companies, the retirement age of executives who joined prior to nationalisation, is 60 years.

(b) and (c) Instructions were issued in February, 1983, to public sector undertakings not to grant extension and give re-employment to superannuated persons. They had also been advised that whenever any extension or re-employment of superannuated persons is inescapable, approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet is required in respect of posts where the pay (including pension and pensionary equivalent of retirement benefits) proposed to be allowed to such person exceeds Rs. 2,500/- per month or where the minimum of the pay scale proposed to be given to such person is Rs 2,500/- or more. Information regarding the names, age, designation, salary and perks of the senior executives in public sector undertakings who are still continuing in service after superannuation as well as the names of the public sector undertakings, their location etc. are not readily available. It will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Bye-elections to legislatures while litigation is pending in Supreme Court

3330. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bye-elections to legislatures can be held if relevant litigation is pending in the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether it is the duty of the Election Commission to ensure such scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Depletion of forests by paper mills

3331. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the vast depletion of forests by paper mills;

(b) what are the schemes being implemented to foster alternative sources of raw material for paper mills; and

(c) what is the present stage of implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There are a number of factors responsible for depletion of forests. This cannot be attributed solely to paper mills although forests are an important source of raw material for the paper industry.